ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

—OF THE—

Fifth ❋ Annual ❋ Session

—OF THE—

Sardis ¦ Baptist ¦ Association

—HELD WITH—

BEULAH CHURCH

OCT. 7TH, 8TH AND 9TH, 1898.

.....OFFICERS.....

J. W. BROOKS..... ....MODERATOR.
J W. HOLLOWAY ....CLERK.
F. E. BEDSOLE .... TREASURER

1898
CLIPPER JOB OFFICE,
ELBA, ALA.

MINUTES

The Sardis Baptist Association met in its Fifth Annual Session with the Baptist church at Beulah, Oct. 7, 1898. The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. J. W. Brooks at 11 o'clock a. m. from Psalms 46:4. Intermission one hour and a half.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association was called to order by the former Moderator by singing, and prayer by Rev. J. C Johnson. Called for and read letters from the various churches viz: Piney Grove—delegates; W T Johnston, M V Crews, J A Weeks, J W Brooks, A J Brooks, J B Weeks. Sardis—J D Flemming, T J Geoghagan, T R Roberts, W C Dubose, J C Johnson. Pleasant Hill—W B Watkins, W M Hamilton, W L Johns Beulah—Z Scofield, J C Coon, J W Holloway, J J Barnes. Alberton—J F Parish, Jno. Clark. Natural Bridge—G W Meek, W B Butler, J C Pelham.

On motion suspended the regular order of business and called for petitionary letters and the following churches were received and the moderator extended the right hand of fellowship to the delegates to-wit: Fair View—delegates; W J Wise, J R Blalock. J E Phillips. Pilgrim's Rest—C A Anderson, R C Creech, F E Bedsole. New Hope—G W McLeod, B F Harbuck, J J Thames. After a song, and prayer by Rev. J. C Johnson, on motion adjourned until Saturday morning 9 o'clock.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION.

Called to order by the moderator, and after a lesson of Scripture and music, were led in prayer by J. W. Holloway, and suspended the order of business and recalled for, and read letters, viz: From New Hope and Chapel Hill—the latter's delegates—Jas. M Hart, W B Eason, Dan Parker, P D Bulger, W H Roberts; the former of which had been received by voucher. Called the roll and marked absentees. Then called for correspondence when Bros M. A. Helms, Sr, M. A. Helms, Jr., and Rev, Jas. Graham from Pea River Association were given seats with us. Intermission ten minutes, after which reassembled, and at 11 Bro. Graham preached an excellent sermon and concluded by Bro. J. C. Johnson. Intermission one hour and a half.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The body was called to order by moderator, and extended the call for correspondence, when Bros J. D. Hataway, I E. Jones and Thos. Clark responded from the New Providence Association; Bro.

I. J. Ward, from the Graves Association. Called for report on Nominations. Read and adopted. See appendix a. Report on Temperance read and after discussions by Bros A. Hart, A. J. Brooks, Jas. Graham, Aaron Whaley and J. W. Brooks, was by motion adopted. See appendix (b). Report on Periodicals read and adopted. See appendix (c). Prayer by Bro. J. D. Hataway. On motion adjourned till Sabbath morning 9 o'clock.

Preaching at night by Elder A. J. Brooks; text 1st John, 3rd chapter and 1st verse.

SABBATH MORNING SESSION.

The body was called to order by the moderator by singing, and prayer by Elder N. B. Flemming. Called for report on Education, which was read and adopted. See appendix (d), and by motion limited discussions to 10 minutes. Called for report on Sabbath Schools, read, and after the able discussions of A. Hart and others, was by motion adopted and amended. See appendix (e). Report on Missions was read and after discussions by J. W. Brooks and A. J. Brooks, adopted. See appendix (f). Dismissed 10 minutes. Preaching at 11 by J. W. Brooks; text St. John 9:35, after which a public collection was taken for associational purposes

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The association was called to order by the moderator, and called for resolutions.

Resolved, That the meeting of this body be changed from the second to the third Sunday in October, beginning Friday before.

Called for, read and adopted the treasurer's report. See appendix (g).

Resolved, That the Sardis Association as a body, request the pastors of each church, to preach at least three doctrinal sermons each year. That by so doing both church and the world may become better acquainted with the Baptist Faith and Doctrine.

Resolved, That we hereby tender our warmest thanks to the members of Beulah church and community, and especially the ladies, for their unbounded and cordial hospitality extended us during this session of the Association. Respectfully,

W. J. Wise.

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APPENDICES.

(a) We, your committee on Nominations offer the following: We find two churches asking for the next session of this body, to-wit: Fair View and New Hope. The latter withdrew, so the session of 1899 will convene with Fair View church, Coffee county.

Ala., 14 miles south of Elba, east of Pea river. The introductory sermon to be preached by A. J. Brooks. Executive committee—G. W. McLeod, W. R. Eason, W. J. Wise, J. J. Barnes and J. H. Weeks. Respectfully submitted, W. B. Watkins.

(b) We, your committee on Temperance report as follows: We rejoice to be able to say after investigation, that the cause of Temperance is making some progress in our favor and the people are waking up to the fact that ardent spirits when taken as a beverage, create a thirst for more, lead to drunkenness, impoverish the people, make widows and orphans, give employment to lawyers, crowd our courts with crime, fill our prisons and prepare men for the regions of the damned. These truths have been so clearly and plainly taught before our eyes that no man who loves his family, his neighbors, good government and the Master's cause can be induced to advocate the whisky traffic. We have but to educate public sentiment in order to banish the evil of intemperance from our midst and from our beloved country. In view of these facts we recommend that our pastors preach plainly upon the subject of Temperance and teach the people what it is. Respectfully,

T. J. Geoghagan.

(c) We, your committee on Periodicals, recommend first of all the Bible, the Ala. Baptist, the Texas Baptist Standard and the literature of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board for our Sunday schools. Respectfully, R. C. Creech.

(d) We, your committee on Education, offer the following: Realizing the great importance of education in all the spheres of life and especially as pertaining to the Scriptures. Paul said that the things that were written for our learning, and he admonishes Timothy to study, &c. Therefore we recommend that our people give more attention to the educating of their children and the selecting of the very best schools and teachers, in which and under whom to place their children Therefore, we recommend the Howard College at East Lake, for the boys and the Judson Institute at Marion, for our girls; each of which is of the highest order both from a religious and literary standpoint.

Respectfully submitted, J. R. Blalock.

(e) We present as a report on Sabbath Schools, the following: Whereas, There are five Sabbath schools in this association, that the remaining churches have such schools also, and that each church member be a consistent member of such schools, as is his duty to be. We recommend Baptist literature only. Respectfully,

A. J. Brooks.

(f) We hold that Mission work, as one of the many duties in-

cumbent upon the Christian people, is the most important. The great and undeniable mandate of Christ to his followers was to preach the unsearchable riches of his gospel for a witness unto them as Paul terms it, "where Christ is not named." We recommend that the pastors of each church urge the necessity of missions upon their hearers, and also that the deacons and other leading members exhibit the Grace of God by contending for this most important question. Respectfully, J. W. Holloway.

(g) TREASURER'S REPORT.

Paid to clerk for minutes	$ 9 05
Paid to A J. Preston	4 00
Bal. on hand for associational purposes	6 15
Foreign Missions	1 00
Orphans Home	1 00
Total	$8 15

F. E. Bedsole, Treasurer.

(h) We, your committee on Finance, find the following: For minutes, $9 15; for associational funds, $10 15; for foreign missions, $1 00; orphans home, $1 00; all of which has been turned over to treasurer and receipted for same. W. J. Wise, Chm'n.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1. We believe in one only true and living God—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

2. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the doctrine of eternal and particular election.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

5. We believe in man's incapacity to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, by any exertion of his own free will.

6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.

7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit

8. We believe that saints shall persevere in grace, and never finally fall away.

9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ: that true believers are the only subjects of these ordinances; and that immersion only is baptism.

10. we believe in the resurrection of the dead and the general judgment.

11. we believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and that the joys of the righteous will be eternal.

12. we believe that no person has a right to administer the ordinances of the Gospel, except one who has been regularly called and ordained to the work by the imposition of the hands of a presbytery.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	PASTORS POSTOFFICE.	CLERKS.	CLERKS POSTOFFICE.	Preac'ng Sabbath	Baptised	Rec'd by Letter	Restored	Dis'm'd by Let'r	Excluded	Dead	Pres't Mem'ship	Contributions
Fairview	J. W. Brooks	Huggins, Ala.	J. R. Blalock	Leverett. Ala.	4	28	4	5		2		54	$2 25
Natural Bridge	Dan Anderson	Union, Fla	Jno. Miller	Natural Bridge.	4		2	3	5			27	1 95
Alberton	J. M. Moore	Brockton, Ala	S. F. Parish	Alberton, Ala.	3		2			2	2	12	1 50
Sardis	J. S. Kilpatrick	Marl, Ala.			4	1			3		1	46	85
New Hope	J. C. Johnson		G. W. McLeod	Green Bay, Ala.	1	6	3	1	1	2		38	1 25
Chapel Hill	J. W. Brooks	Huggins, Ala.	J. M. Hart	Natural Bridge.		2	9		1	2		29	1 85
Pleasant Hill	P. D. Bulger	Liberty Hill "	A. J Ward	Liberty Hill, Ala		1	1			3		44	75
Beulah	A. J. Brooks	Huggins, Ala.	J. W. Holloway.	Cross Trails "	4	10	1			1	1	33	1 25
Piney Grove	J W. Brooks	" "	D. J. Williams	Huggins' "	2	2	2	3	12	2		88	6 25
Pilgrim's Rest	N. B. Flemming	Curtis, Ala.	F. E. Bedsole	Cross Trails, "	2				4	1			

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Introductory Sermon.
2. Hear letters from the Churches read.
3. Elect moderator, clerk and treasurer.
4. Invite ministering brethren to seats.
5. Call for petition from Churches desiring to unite.
6. Appoint committees (to report during the session). To arrange preaching. On Missions. On Finance. On Documents. On Nominations.
7. Call for correspondence.
8. Return correspondence.
9. Call roll and mark absentees.
10. Hear treasurer's report.
11. Hear miscellaneous resolutions.
12. Hear reports from committees.
13. Make arrangements for printing minutes.
14. Correct minutes and adjourn.